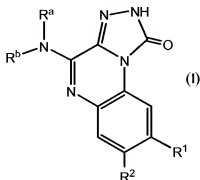


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented): A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

R^a and R^b are, independently:

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) acetyl;

(iii) -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of:

(a) halogen; (b) -NR³R⁴; (c) -COR⁵; (d) -OR⁶; (e) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; (f) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; (g) -(C₃-C₁₁)cycloalkyl; or (h) -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₁-C₆)alkyl or -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; wherein:

R³ and R⁴ are independently:

(j) hydrogen; (k) amidino; (l) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; cyano; nitro; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or -COR⁵; (m) -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl; -(C₃-C₁₁)cycloalkyl; -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; aryl; or heteroaryl; (n) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; trifluoromethyl; cyano; nitro; -COR⁵; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl; or -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; (o) -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or (p) -COR⁵;

R⁵ is (q) hydroxy; (r) -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy or aryl; (s) -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; (t) heteroaryl; or (u) -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; and

R⁶ is (v) -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy or aryl; (w) heteroaryl; or (x) -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

(iv) -(C₃-C₁₁)cycloalkyl; or

(v) -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; -COR⁵; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; and -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; or

R² and R^b, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring, optionally having from 1-3 additional heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur, wherein said 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring is optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; trifluoromethyl; and cyano; and

R¹ and R² are independently selected from the group consisting of amino; halogen; hydrogen; trifluoromethyl; nitro; -COR⁵; -NR³R⁴; -CONR³R⁴; and -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl; -NR³R⁴; aryl; heteroaryl; or hydroxy;

provided when R^a is hydrogen, and R^b is hydrogen or isopropyl, R¹ is not halogen.

2. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein:

R^a is hydrogen;

R^b is selected from the group consisting of (iii) -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally substituted with: (b) -NR³R⁴, wherein R³ is hydrogen and R⁴ is heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl; cyano; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl; -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; or -COR⁵; (e) aryl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 halogen atoms; (f) heteroaryl; (h) -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl; (iv) -(C₃-C₁₁)cycloalkyl; or (v) -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl;

R¹ is hydrogen; halogen; -COR⁵; -CONR³R⁴; or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl or -NR³R⁴; and

R² is hydrogen; -CONR³R⁴; or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl or -NR³R⁴.

3. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein:

R^a is hydrogen;

R^b is (iii) -(C₁-C₃)alkyl, optionally substituted with (b) -NR³R⁴, wherein R³ is hydrogen and R⁴ is heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl; cyano; -

(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl; or -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; (e) aryl; (f) heteroaryl; (h) -(C₃-C₆)heterocycloalkyl; (iv) -(C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl; or (v) -(C₃-C₁₁)heterocycloalkyl;

R¹ is hydrogen; fluoro; chloro; bromo; -COR⁵, wherein R⁵ is hydroxy or -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; or -CONR³R⁴, wherein R³ is hydrogen or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; and R⁴ is -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; and

R² is hydrogen or -CONR³R⁴, wherein R³ is -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; and R⁴ is -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

4. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

8-fluoro-4-cyclohexyllamino-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-(piperidin-4-ylamino)-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-(4-phenyl-propylamino)-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-8-carboxylic acid-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-amide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-8-carboxylic acid-dimethylamide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-7-carboxylic acid-methylamide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-8-carboxylic acid-isobutyl amide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-7-carboxylic acid-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-methyl amide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-8-carboxylic acid, sodium salt;

4-[2-(1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)-butylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)-ethylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(1H-benzimidazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(benzoxazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-chloro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(benzothiazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-bromo-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(benzothiazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-chloro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(1H-benzothiazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)-propylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

2-[2-(8-fluoro-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-4-ylamino)-ethylamino]-isonicotinic acid;

4-[2-(6-methoxy-benzothiazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-bromo-4-[2-(1H-indol-3-yl)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylamino)-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(1H-indol-3-yl)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(quinolin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(2-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-4-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(3-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(4-morpholin-4-ylmethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-propylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(5-cyano-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-propylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(6-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-[1,6]naphthyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(6-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethyl]-amino-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(7-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-4-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-4-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

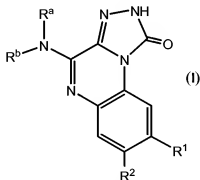
8-fluoro-4-[3-(5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-propylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one; or

1-oxo-4-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-7-carboxylic acid methyl ester;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutically composition comprising the compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, or diluent.

Claims 6-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New): A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

R^a is:

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) acetyl;

(iii) -(C₁-C₆)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of:

(a) halogen; (b) -NR³R⁴; (c) -COR⁵; (d) -OR⁶; (e) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; (f) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; (g) -(C₃-C₁₁)cycloalkyl; or

(h) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy;

R^b is:

(i) acetyl;

(ii) $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of:

(a) halogen; (b) $-NR^3R^4$; (c) $-COR^5$; (d) $-OR^5$; (e) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (f) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; (g) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl; or (h) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy;

R^3 and R^4 are independently:

(j) hydrogen; (k) amidino; (l) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; cyano; nitro; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or $-COR^5$; (m) $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; aryl; or heteroaryl; (n) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; trifluoromethyl; cyano; nitro; $-COR^5$; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (o) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; or (p) $-COR^5$;

R^5 is (q) hydroxy; (r) $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy or aryl; (s) $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (t) heteroaryl; or (u) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and

R^6 is (v) $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy or aryl; (w) heteroaryl; or (x) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl;

(iv) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl; or

(v) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; $-COR^5$; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; or

R^a and R^b , taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring, optionally having from 1-3 additional heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur, wherein said 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring is optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; or heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; trifluoromethyl; and cyano; and

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of amino; halogen; hydrogen; trifluoromethyl; nitro; $-COR^5$; $-NR^3R^4$; $-CONR^3R^4$; and $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and

independently, substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; $-NR^3R^4$; aryl; heteroaryl; or hydroxy;

provided when R^a is hydrogen, and R^b is isopropyl, R^1 is not F, Cl or Br.

16. (New) The compound of claim 15, wherein:

R^a is hydrogen;

R^b is selected from the group consisting of (iii) $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with: (b) $-NR^3R^4$, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl; cyano; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; or $-COR^5$; (e) aryl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 halogen atoms; (f) heteroaryl; (h) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; (iv) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl; or (v) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl;

R^1 is hydrogen; halogen; $-COR^5$; $-CONR^3R^4$; or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl or $-NR^3R^4$; and

R^2 is hydrogen; $-CONR^3R^4$; or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl or $-NR^3R^4$.

17. (New) The compound of claim 15, wherein:

R^a is hydrogen;

R^b is (iii) $-(C_1-C_3)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with (b) $-NR^3R^4$, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl; cyano; $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (e) aryl; (f) heteroaryl; (h) $-(C_3-C_6)$ heterocycloalkyl; (iv) $-(C_3-C_6)$ cycloalkyl; or (v) $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl;

R^1 is hydrogen; fluoro; chloro; bromo; $-COR^5$, wherein R^5 is hydroxy or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; or $-CONR^3R^4$, wherein R^3 is hydrogen or $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and R^4 is $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; and

R^2 is hydrogen or $-CONR^3R^4$, wherein R^3 is $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and R^4 is $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy.

18. (New) A pharmaceutically composition comprising the compound of claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, or diluent.